

**THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

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NOTE FOR:



STAT

The attached article, FYI, addresses
a number of issues raised during our dis-
cussion on 26 February.

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'ALI COMMENTS ON UPCOMING HAIG, STERNER VISITS

[REDACTED] MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 25 Feb 81

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[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will pay his first visit to Egypt under the new U.S. administration on 5 and 6 April.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, 'Ali said that Egypt has a completely open mind for anything related to the settlement of all aspects of the Palestinian problem and the fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He added: There is no doubt that Camp David is considered a suitable basis for the peace process in the Middle East, but any contribution to a solution to the present stalemate in the peace efforts and any contribution leading to the participation of the Palestinians and Jordan in the future stages, will be quite welcome by us.

On the talks to be held by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner in Cairo, 'Ali said that the talks will begin on Saturday and will focus on the formation of a multinational force to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

He added: The visit also reflects the U.S. resolve to play the role of full partner in the Middle East peace process and the eagerness of the new U.S. administration to implement all the provisions of the peace treaty as well as its commitment to the implementation of the provisions regarding security arrangements in Area C in Sinai and Area D in Israel. The visit and the talks also come on the heels of the contacts held recently by Egypt with certain states, especially the states recently visited by Dr Butrus Ghali, to examine their willingness to participate in the multinational force for supervision and inspection in Area C and D after the Israeli withdrawal to the international borders which existed between Egypt and Palestine in the days of the [British] mandate. Israel is scheduled to withdraw to these borders in April 1982. All this is in implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Referring to yesterday's visit to Cairo by Omani minister of state for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi, 'Ali said that the visit was within the framework of the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and Oman's support for the peace process. He added that views were exchanged during the visit on the situation in the Arab region, the Middle East, the Iraqi-Iranian war and its effects on the area and bilateral relations.

AL-AHRAM ON PARTICIPATION OF NUCLEAR TREATY

[REDACTED] AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 81 pp 1, 3

STAT

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi: "Egypt's Nuclear Disarmament: How?"]

[Excerpts] A big question that was being asked in Egypt this week should be answered objectively, not simply in order to reply to the opposition in Egypt, but also because the question concerns a vital matter relating to national security.

The question, raised on the occasion of the People's Assembly's ratification of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, was: Who is behind depriving Egypt of the nuclear option and who is behind Egypt's nuclear disarmament at a time when Israel has become a nuclear state and Iraq and Libya are approaching this target? Who has asked Egypt to take this step? Is it the United States, or France, or Israel?

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Is it required that Egypt should become a second-class or third-class state or that Egypt's role should shrink and suffer military paralysis? And finally, why was the treaty ratified at such stunning speed?

First we begin by replying to the claim that the treaty was ratified at stunning speed. The Cabinet approved the ratification of the treaty on 28 December 1980 after careful and thorough study. This was followed by discussion of the treaty by the National Democratic Party's [NDP] parliamentary body and its approval of it on 21 January. The whole matter was then referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee comprising the Defense and National Security Committees and the Foreign Relations Committee, which on 1 February recommended ratification of the treaty. This was followed by discussion of the treaty in the Arab Affairs and National Security Committees at the Consultative Council on 5 February, and on 7 February the Consultative Council, which includes highly qualified and well recognized patriotic elements, ratified the treaty.

Finally the People's Assembly ratified the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty on 16 February.

This is as far as the stages of ratifying the treaty are concerned. Let us now deal with the crux of the subject:

First, Egypt has long been aware of Israel's nuclear activity and of Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona, which it obtained from France. The 24-megawatt reactor has been operating at maximum power for the last 18 years. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hasan Kamal 'Ali did not conceal Egypt's concern in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. He said that Israel does not allow anybody to visit the Dimona reactor--not even members of the Israeli Knesset. This is where the danger lies.

Second: Nevertheless, Egypt's ratification of the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty will prompt Israel to give greater consideration and thought to the question of nuclear armament. Several Arab countries long ago joined the treaty, including all the countries neighboring Israel.

What the opposition said about Libya not having joined the treaty is not true, because Libya signed the treaty on 18 July 1968 and ratified it on 26 May 1975.

The progress that both Libya and Iraq have achieved in the nuclear field and which the opposition is talking about would not have been possible--if there is really such progress--without joining the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty. Without doing so they would not have been about to obtain any technical aid in this field under international supervision. It is such Arab progress through the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty that indeed worries Israel.

Third: Egypt's joining the treaty and becoming open to nuclear technology on the largest scale will prompt Israel and others to think deeply of the futility of starting a nuclear race in the area. Also, Egypt's inclination toward the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes will strengthen "Egypt's nuclear option in the future" rather than deprive it of that option, as the opposition alleges. Expanding the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes would make Egypt a first-class state and not, as the opposition thinks, a second- or third-class state.

It is unreasonable that we should continue to talk about the Anshas nuclear reactor, which the Soviet Union gave to us and which has exhausted its purposes. This 2-megawatt reactor is the weakest in the world, because we have been refusing even the level of inspection applied in Israel.

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Fourth: Egypt's persistence in its previous policy of ratifying the treaty only after Israel joined it would in fact have meant Egypt's giving Israel and others the right to "veto" or object to the growth and development of nuclear energy in Egypt.

Fifth: Egypt's step of ratifying the treaty came after it succeeded at the recent General Assembly meeting in persuading Israel to accept Egypt's decision to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. As Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan "Ali" rightly said before the People's Assembly, "What prompted Israel to take this new step was its realization of the danger that will surround it and surround the area if an arms race begins here." Of course, Israel takes into consideration the progress that Iraq and Libya have achieved in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, while both are parties to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

In fact we should not belittle the importance of this new step by Israel. The opposition and all those who write about the subject know well, by virtue of their position and following international developments, the great efforts that Egypt made in order to convince Israel to accept the Egyptian initiative of creating a zone free of nuclear arms in the Middle East, after it rejected the idea for many years. Egypt's policy in this regard is protective and aimed at preventing the appearance of nuclear arms in the area.

Sixth: The ratification of the treaty also stems from Egypt's basic need to develop its nuclear energy in order to provide electric power up to the end of this century. This is a responsibility that we must shoulder in order to provide for future generations. For this reason Egypt is seeking to obtain eight reactors and not just one in the coming 20 years. Such large-scale nuclear advance cannot be easily achieved in the present international circumstances without ratifying the treaty.

It is true that the United States has stipulated total international control on nuclear activity in Egypt in the event that it obtains American reactors, which is in accordance with the U.S. law on preventing nuclear proliferation. In addition, the United States wants to carry out inspection of our nuclear activity itself in place of the International Atomic Energy Agency, if the agency is unable to carry out its role. Which means that what the opposition is talking about--that inspection should apply to the reactors we obtain from the United States and not to other nuclear installations--is unacceptable to the United States and to the other exporting countries that have formed the so-called "London Club," and also to the importing countries that have joined the treaty and which number over 100 states.

What is important after that is that the opposition must admit that the Soviet Union has always refused to give nuclear arms to Egypt or give it Soviet nuclear guarantees in case Israel should use nuclear weapons in its clash with Egypt.

As for the talk about the equipment that Pakistan obtained, obviously this was obtained in devious ways which were eventually exposed. Switzerland, the only country that supplied Pakistan with such equipment, pledged to stop immediately.

Seventh: Egypt's membership of the treaty will not jeopardize its security but rather enable it, in the event of a military nuclear threat to any of the countries of the area, to choose between two options:

✓ A. To withdraw from the treaty. This is something that Egypt decides and not the Security Council, as the opposition is trying to suggest. As for the question of notifying the council of withdrawal from the treaty, this is only in view of its responsibility for preserving world peace and security or in the hope that it might be able to rectify the condition or conditions leading to the state's withdrawal from the treaty.

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B. To resort to the Security Council in accordance with its June 1968 resolution in order to give immediate aid if Egypt becomes the victim of an aggressive action or in a situation in which it is threatened by the use of nuclear arms.

Finally, Egypt, despite its "peace option," is most anxious to preserve the security and safety of its territories and peoples. For this reason the military budget has not been reduced, indeed, it is striving to provide all the funds that the military experts are demanding in order to develop weapons and utilize the latest technology. This is being done within resources that should also provide for the implementation of the ambitious development plan and facilitate removal of the bottlenecks in the national economy.

We never had any nuclear arms in Egypt, so that it cannot be said that there is someone who is trying to disarm Egypt. The possession by Israel or any other country in the area of a nuclear destructive power is not the end of everything. There are other destructive forces that cannot be monitored or measured by explosions. Egypt entered the October 1973 war knowing that Israel had the capability to manufacture an atomic bomb, if it was not actually in possession of it, but this did not weaken its resolve or the resolve of its men.

CHAIR OF ISLAMIC, ARAB PEOPLES' LEAGUE TO ROTATE

[REDACTED] AL-AHRAN in Arabic 20 Feb 81 p 6

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[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has issued instructions that chairmanship of the Islamic and Arab Peoples' League be held in rotation. The president also asked Dr Sayyid Nawfal, general secretary of the league's constituent assembly, to discuss the formation of an international federation for Muslim workers and a youth federation.

Dr Nawfal said that the chairmanship of the next session which begins in May will go to the Sudanese people's delegation, in view of the fact that the Sudanese people are co-founders with the Egyptian people in establishing the league; subsequent chairmanships will be in alphabetical order.

AL-AKHBAR WARNS OF SOVIET MOVES IN GULF REGION

[REDACTED] AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Feb 81 p 6

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[Editorial: "The Agent Moves Gain Against the Gulf States"]

[Text] The Soviet Union has called on its agents who call themselves the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to move swiftly against the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, now that these states have concluded a charter for cooperation against foreign intervention in the area, and to denounce the joint American-Omani military maneuvers in the Sultanate of Oman because the Soviets regard this as a consolidation of the American presence in the area at a time when these states are cooperating to prevent any Soviet presence there. It was agreed that the president of South Yemen would work toward this move. He started by proposing at the At-Ta'if Islamic conference that a summit conference of the states of the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa be convened to discuss ways and means to liquidate the foreign military presence in these areas.

It has been reported that the Soviets have observed that the president of South Yemen was lax in his work toward this move, but Hafiz al-Asad convinced the Soviets that he was implementing their plan meticulously and in a manner consistent with the international changes. The South Yemeni president therefore, embarked on a quick tour.